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FLOOR DEBATE

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The floor is open for nominations for Chairman...Chair of the Appropriations Committee. The Chair recognizes Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's hard not to be in awe as you stand here in this Chamber, and I feel that, now I've been here, this is my ninth year in the Legislature, and when you consider the responsibility that we have, I think it's very awe-inspiring. And I'm...I've appreciated the opportunity to be in the Legislature and I'd like to tell you just a little bit about myself, because certainly some of the new members wouldn't know me very well. I'll give you a little bit of history. I was born in Hastings, Nebraska, and moved at an early age to Lincoln. I brought my parents with me. And I started school right across the street to the south here at what was called Capitol Grade School. It's no longer there as Capitol Grade School. But then we moved to Omaha and I lived through my grade school, middle school...they called it junior high then...and high school in Omaha, graduating from Omaha Benson. And then I went to UNO. So that's my experience in...background in that respect. After I...after I went to UNO for awhile, I then went to Nebraska University for Law College and I graduated from there and had a brief stint in the state of Oklahoma, which was enough. And I worked for...(laughter)...I worked for an oil company down there and when I realized I...the work, although I was a lawyer, I felt I could be replaced by a postage stamp, so I didn't think that I was doing what I was destined to do, so I moved to Gering, Nebraska, and was in the county attorney's office there and had the opportunity...thank you, Senator Smith. Have to mention Gering every once in awhile. But it was an opportunity to be in the county attorney's office, to engage in the trial of matters up there, and they have considerable amount of criminal prosecution in there, so I gained quite a bit of trial experience at that point. And then an opportunity arose to go to North Platte, and I've been there for a long time practicing law. And I've served in primarily banking and insurance law, and then estate planning, and I was an early president of the Nebraska Association of Bank Attorneys. And I did a lot of water litigation, but I think that probably my activities within the community impacted me greatly. I served on the school board